

*Systematics*                   Lepidoptera  
                                       Tineidae  
                                       Tineinae  
                                       *Proterospastis*  
                                       *P. merdella* (Zeller)

*Proterospastis* is a senior synonym of *Paratinea* Peterson 1957: 159) (synonymized by Gozmány & Vári 1973).

*Distribution.* The genus *Proterospastis* has 22 species distributed in the Palaearctic and Ethiopian regions eastward to Fiji. One of the species has been recorded from rodent excrement and two others from bat guano (Robinson 1980). *P. merdella* has been recorded from Egypt, Israel, Turkey, Malta, Sicily, Spain and Algeria.

*Local records.* In Malta, *Proterospastis merdella* (Zeller) was first recorded by De Lucca (1969:140) who, using the conventional methods of light traps and sugaring, captured "one specimen at Gharghur on June 1957". Valletta (1973:94) could add no further records. This is, therefore, only the second Maltese record of *P. merdella*. On August 13th, 1980, two further empty larval cases (ZM/Gh. D.26 and 27), identical in all respects to that of *P. merdella* (Zeller) were collected by the present writer from Ghar Dalam. Both cases were found in adjacent spiders' webs lying half a metre within the Cave entrance and about 3 cms above floor level.

#### Acknowledgements

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#### References

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AN EARLY LARGE WHITE: *PIERIS BRASSICAE* L.—Here, I am afraid as elsewhere, it has been the worst butterfly year on record. Practically nothing about, but my first sighting was a female *P. brassicae* in mid-April — surely a rather curious start to the season? I observed it closely settled on some flowers of *Malus floribunda*, and a very pretty picture it made.—N. G. WYKES, Uploders House, Bridport, Dorset. 10 June 1981.